

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: GOF AND ILO

1. FRANCOIS LAGRANGE, DIRECTOR OF CABINET IN THE LABOR
MINISTRY, MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO LABATT ON 2 JANUARY
REGARDING ILO.

A. EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WASHINGTON THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT
BLANCHARD (FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR ILO DG POSITION) APPRECIATES
THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE COOPERATION WITH USG ON ILO MATTERS.
EXPERIENCE OF JENK'S "MISHANDLING" OF HIS RELATIONS WITH USG
HELPED REINFORCE BLANCHARD'S CONVICTION THAT THE ILO DG CANNOT
IGNORE WITH IMPUNITY THE U.S. WEIGHT AND INFLUENCE IN ILO.
LAGRANGE INSISTED THAT BLANCHARD IS REALISTICALLY OUTSPOKEN ON
THIS POINT.

B. AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF PAROLI (GOF PERMANENT DELEGATE
TO ILO GOVERNING BODY), THE GOF WILL BE URGING THE ILO TO
DEVELOP MORE EXTENSIVELY THAN IT HAD DONE IN RECENT YEARS ITS
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. LAGRANGE CAUTIONED THAT THIS WAS NOT
MEANT TO UNDERMINE THE INTEGRITY OF ILO AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGAN-
IZATION, BUT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES
THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE VARIOUS REGIONS WITH REGARD TO LABOR
STANDARDS AND LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS. IN GOF'S VIEW THE
ILO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS COULD FOCUS MORE EFFECTIVELY ON
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THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN EACH REGION.

C. GOF INTENDS ALSO TO ADVOCATE THAT ILO, OR PERHAPS THE ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, DEVELOP CLOSER CONTACTS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - SOMETHING WHICH, HE SAID, HAS BEEN WOEFULLY NEGLECTED SO FAR.

2. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT FRENCH POLICY AIMING AT AN "INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN ENTITY" MAY WELL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH GOF'S SUDDEN INTEREST IN ILO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ILO-EC RELATIONS, EVEN IF IN THEMSELVES REASONABLE PROPOSITIONS. STONE

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